



- *In Memoriam* -
Michael Wagner

October 1, 2014

With much sadness, Dr. Nancie Caraway and I extend our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Michael Wagner. To his partner, Bill Matsumoto; sister, Penny; brother, Jim; and the rest of his extended *'ohana*, I offer my deepest sympathy.

One of Mike's lifelong gifts was the unique way he saw the world, which he paired with a genius for communication and collaboration. After working as a graphic artist, Mike brought these unique talents to the advertising world where he flourished as an art director, honing his skills at Cole & Weber in Seattle and Ogilvy & Mather in Honolulu before finding a home at Milici Valenti Ng Pack (MVNP) for 23 years in Hawai'i.

Mike made his mark in the advertising field in Hawai'i and beyond, with his work recognized by numerous awards, including The One Club's The One Show and the Pele Awards, while the Honolulu Advertising Federation named him "Hawai'i Advertising Person of the Year" in 1995. With his keen eye and ready laugh, he also served as a valued mentor for generations of professionals in Hawai'i.

His gentle compassion made him a lifelong friend to animals, including his parrot Edamame and beloved dog Mochi. Mike was also a thoughtful advocate for equality and civil rights. In reflecting on his kind and creative spirit, we are reminded of a quotation from advertising executive Leo Burnett:

"The work of an advertising agency is warmly and immediately human. It deals with human needs, wants, dreams and hopes. Its 'product' cannot be turned out on an assembly line."

Mike leaves behind a memorable example of how to live a passionate and considered life, pursuing and sharing uncommon dreams and visions without losing perspective. To his *'ohana* and friends, I wish you his strength and peace as you celebrate his life in this difficult time.

With warmest regards,

NEIL ABERCROMBIE

Governor, State of Hawai'i